

MAR 12 2015

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK  
FORCE TO INVESTIGATE AND COORDINATE THE PROVISION OF  
MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL, HOUSING, AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO  
MIGRANTS FROM FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

1 WHEREAS, The Compact of Free Association defines the  
2 relationship that the Federated States of Micronesia, the  
3 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau have  
4 as associated states with the United States; and  
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6 WHEREAS, under the Compact, the United States provides  
7 direct economic assistance, federal services, and military  
8 protection to the associated states in exchange for defense  
9 rights; and  
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11 WHEREAS, under the Compact of Free Association, Freely  
12 Associated States citizens can migrate in and out of Hawaii  
13 without visas or other immigration requirements; and  
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15 WHEREAS, according to United States census data, it is  
16 estimated that over twelve thousand Freely Associated States  
17 citizens have migrated to Hawaii; and  
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19 WHEREAS, this migration has had a significant financial  
20 impact on Hawaii in terms of unreimbursed health care,  
21 education, public safety, and welfare costs; and  
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23 WHEREAS, since the federal government continues to provide  
24 inadequate federal medical and welfare assistance to Freely  
25 Associated States citizens who migrated to Hawaii and other  
26 parts of the United States, many rely on state aid; and  
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28 WHEREAS, it is reported that the education, health, public  
29 safety, and social services cost of migrants from the Freely  
30 Associated States to Hawaii alone was \$628,752,280 between 2004  
31 and 2010, with education and health care costs accounting for  
32 the largest shares; and  
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1 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,  
2 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated  
3 States; and

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5 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of  
6 services to this population; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted S.R. No. 142, S.D. 1, during  
9 the Regular Session of 2007, which requested the Attorney  
10 General to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate  
11 the provision of services to migrants from the Freely Associated  
12 States; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, another task force should be convened to  
15 investigate and coordinate the provision of medical,  
16 educational, housing, and social services to migrants from  
17 Freely Associated States; now, therefore,

18  
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
21 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to  
22 convene a task force to investigate and coordinate the provision  
23 of medical, educational, housing, and social services to  
24 migrants from Freely Associated States; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
27 include:

- 28  
29 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;  
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31 (2) The Director of Human Services or the Director's  
32 designee;  
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34 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Education or the  
35 Chairperson's designee;  
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37 (4) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations or the  
38 Director's designee;  
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40 (5) A professor from the University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
41 John A. Burns School of Medicine, or the professor's  
42 designee;



(6) The President of the Micronesian Community Network or the President's designee;

(7) The President of Micronesians United or the President's designee;

(8) The Director of the Institute for Human Services or the Director's designee; and

(9) A professor from the University of Hawaii-West Oahu or the professor's designee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

(1) Consult with the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in Hawaii regarding what federal funds and services are available to assist Freely Associated States citizens in Hawaii;

(2) Consult with the United States Census Bureau on obtaining information in future national or regional censuses on the number of Freely Associated States citizens living, working, and attending school in Hawaii; and

(3) Investigate the medical, educational, housing, and social services needs of migrants from Freely Associated States, including the impact these service needs have on schools, and make recommendations regarding how to plan for and coordinate the provision of services to this population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session on any actions taken, information gathered, and recommendations made by the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Chairperson of the Board of



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1 Education, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Dean of  
 2 the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Dean of the University of  
 3 Hawaii-West Oahu, Director of the Department of the Interior's  
 4 Office of Insular Affairs in Hawaii, President of Micronesians  
 5 United, President of the Micronesian Community Network, Director  
 6 of the Institute for Human Services, and members of Hawaii's  
 7 congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

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[Signature]

